LAVENDER®

Since 1995

SPONSORED BY
explore MINNESOTA

GETAWAY TO
ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

HOW TO TRAVEL SOLO
ON A GROUP VACATION

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS OF
ACTIVITIES THIS WINTER

The Winter "What To Do" Issue

719 DECEMBER 15-28, 2022
MINNESOTA'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
issuu READ US ONLINE AND IN THE APP!
FACEBOOK / LAVENDERMAGAZINE
INSTAGRAM / @LAVENDERMAGAZINE

SUMMER CAMPS

for LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ Families

ONE HEARTLAND

ESTD 1993

Join us this summer to build community, confidence, and memories while having fun in a welcoming (and beautiful) camp setting!!

Transportation and financial assistance available

CAMP TRUE COLORS

If you are interested in giving the gift of camp to a young person in need please consider donating at **www.oneheartland.org**

Visit **oneheartland.org** to learn more and register today

SUBARU share the love® EVENT

2023 Subaru Outback

Go Where Love Takes You

Now through January 3rd, Subaru will donate $250 to your choice of charities with every new Subaru purchase or lease!

The 2023 Subaru Outback. The 2023 Outback is built to take you anywhere. It features the confidence of standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive with up to 33 MPG and the advanced safety of both standard EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology and the available DriverFocus® Distraction Mitigation System. And it's engineered to last, with 97% of Outback vehicles sold in the last 10 years still on the road today, more than Honda, CR-V, Toyota RAV4, or Hyundai Santa Fe.*

*Based on Experian Automotive vehicles in operation vs. total new registrations for MY2011-2020 as of December 2021.

SUBARU

Luther Bloomington Subaru

Visit us at our new location!

500 American Boulevard West, Bloomington

www.bloomingtonsubaru.com | 763-392-9959

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

ISSUE 719 December 15-28, 2022

The Winter "What To Do" Issue

12 Don't Let The Snow Slow Your Roll

14 "Alone Together:" VACAYA Provides Getaways For Unicorns Who Want To Go Solo

16 The Best LGBTQ Tourist Destinations in the St. Pete/Clearwater Area

20 Keeping It Real With Mike & Jen's Cocoa Mix

22 Grand Finale: Jane Ramseyer Miller Retires From One Voice Mixed Chorus

Photo courtesy of VACAYA

10: Photo by Mike Hnida, 24: Photo courtesy of Living Out, 30: Photo by Randy Stern. Cover photo by Tom Kubik

OUR LAVENDER
8 From the Editor
9 A Word in Edgewise

OUR SCENE
10 Eat The Menu: Blondette

OUR LIVES
24 Senior Living

OUR AFFAIRS
28 Books

OUR HOMES
30 Our Rides

OUR RESOURCES
32 Community Connection
33 The Network

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
Exclusive online content available on our website. Visit ISSUU.COM or download our app to read our Digital Edition.

Health insurance that fits our budget?

We're covered.

MNsure helped us save money on our health insurance.
Find free help at mnsure.org

MNsure℠

CHALLENGES are what make life interesting.
OVERCOMING them is what makes life **MEANINGFUL.**
Don't miss out on the **OPPORTUNITY** of a lifetime in the **MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.**

- $20K enlistment bonus (Based on MOS and eligibility)
- 100% college tuition (Based on U of MN rate)
- Paid work experience
- Full time benefits

MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

NationalGuard.com/MN

jewelry
home
chocolate

MORITZ GLIK

max's

Shops at Excelsior & Grand | 3826 Grand Way | St. Louis Park | 952.922.8364 www.StyleByMax.com

Locally sourced advocacy and advice from lawyers you know.

Custody & Parenting Time • Child Support
Dissolution • Spousal Maintenance
Complex Valuation • Domestic Partnership
Adoption • Third Party Custody • Appeals

612.339.7121 BEST & FLANAGAN www.bestlaw.com

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST

Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

4330 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com

House Lift REMODELER

Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing,organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local.

Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD.

Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication,self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Please send your cover letter and resume to Stephen Rocheford, President & CEO.
stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

LAVENDER®

Volume 28, Issue 719 · December 15-28, 2022

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor Randy Stern 612-461-8723
Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4660
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Contributors Linden M. Bayliss, Lakey Bridge, Brett Burger, Terrance Griep, Steve Lenius, Elise Maren, Jen Peebles-Hampton, Holly Peterson, Analise Pruni, Linda Raines, Gabrielle Reeder, Aurora Smith, Jamez L. Smith, Susan Swavely, Carla Waldemar, Mae Whitney

ADVERTISING

Vice President of Sales & Advertising
Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Account Executives
Nathan Johnson 612-436-4695
Richard Kranz 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer
Sales & Event Administration
Linda Raines 612-436-4660
National Sales Representatives
Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

CREATIVE

Creative/Digital Director Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes

ADMINISTRATION

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Chief Financial Officer Tracey Mittelstadt 612-436-4664
Administrative Assistant Ohna Sullivan 612-436-4660
Distribution Metro Periodical Partners 612-281-3249
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015), John Townsend (1959-2019)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436 or e-mail editor@lavendermagazine.com.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

LAVENDER MEDIA, INC.

5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**
612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**

LAVENDER MAGAZINE.COM
BIG GAY NEWS .COM

Lavender 2016 Magazine of the Year

Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2022. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender® Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender® Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

Season's Greetings
And A
Happy New Year
From All Of Us At

LAVENDER

What To Do This Winter?

BY RANDY STERN

This is our final full issue of 2022.

It is not a sad occasion, mind you. It certainly closes out a year full of great stories and changes at *Lavender Magazine*.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for reading this magazine. For engaging with us. For taking a ride with us along the way.

Of course, we have one more issue to publish for 2022 – our Pride Pages. Look for that to come out in a couple of weeks.

However, let's talk about this issue – our 2022 "Winter What To Do" edition.

For those seeking to get away from our climate, we have some ideas from St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida. The Tampa Bay area is still open for business and vacationers alike! We also discuss being a solo traveler – even among a group of LGBTQ travelers.

If you're looking for a place to permanently get away from it all, there is a place in the Palm Springs area that will welcome us for the best years of our lives.

If we're the kind to stick around this winter,

there's a guide for "what to do" this winter. Not just Holiday festivals, but performances and so forth. Don't worry, we have you covered!

Plus, we offer some piping hot cocoa to go along with your moments of winter relaxation.

Winter is all about transition. One such transition is happening in January with the retirement of Jane Ramseyer Miller as Artistic Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus. For over two decades, she was the heart, the soul, and the driving force at One Voice and across the choral community.

Before I send you forth onto this final issue of 2022, I must turn my focus on Colorado Springs.

On November 19, a person with a gun entered into Club Q and began shooting at patrons just before midnight. Five people were dead; dozens wounded.

Again, we are faced with acts of violence in our community. It is not enough that we are faced with daily hatred and violence for who are for someone to create more mayhem and chaos by targeting the LGBTQ community – especially from one of our own.

I ask that our community continue to send support to the our people in Colorado Springs. Just as we did in every tragedy against us. This cannot happen again!

With that said, I wish you the best of the Holidays. No matter how you spend them, please enjoy what they bring to you. May there be joy and light for you, your family, your friends, and the people in your community.

Again, thank you for reading this magazine! ∎

Ringing the Changes on "Carol" 2022

BY E.B. BOATNER

Charles Dickens's words were codified in 1843, when first published as *A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*. The novella, illustrated by John Leech, was published by London's Chapman and Hall, and has been a holiday staple ever since.

Changes in times and perceptions, through media unknown 179 years ago, have been no obstacle. Whether in film, which didn't exist in Dickens's time, on stage, in "comics" now morphed themselves to "graphic novels," each re-creator, each director, each actor, brings his or her own take, their particular emphasis on emotion, merriment, spookiness, or political view.

The first of numerous film adaptations was a 1908 silent–now lost to posterity–out of Chicago's Essanay Studios while the Black and White MGM production released December 16,1938, featured Twin Cities resident Terry Kilburn (then ten, now 96 come this November 25) as Tiny Tim.

Guthrie adapter Lavina Jadhwani returns, her lean retelling and Joseph Haj's direction, hewing closely to Dickens' words and wit. Their Scrooge is less cramped than he's often portrayed, more willing from the start to change than being terrified into goodness. His "Lead me on" to the Spirit of Christmas Present takes the initiative and hints that much of his curmudgeon-ness may stem from his lonely, neglected childhood. Self-armored through the years by sovereigns and banknotes, Scrooge's carapace is pierced by these Spirit quests, allowing warmth and fellowship to trickle in.

Composer Jane Shaw threads the production with original songs and traditional carols to fill the vaster space of this year's London set; movement and song enrich without distracting "business" for its own sake. London townsfolk move about like, well, townsfolk would at Christmas, 1843, while the Fezziwig festivities are comparable to those in which young Scrooge would have known, dancing and good cheer, not frenzied set-pieces. All conjoin to realistically portray the fantastic, as Scrooge navigates through the past to the probable to make a choice for his future.

While past performances offered more entrenched Scrooges, misers coerced into their transmogrification via sometimes violent, more theatrically spectacular pyrotechnics, swooping descents from the Empyrean, heavier, higher-decibeled chains, here one's heart opens to root for that lonely lad, thirsting for the grace that will allow him to bloom.

Scrooge's transformation by degrees, as he perforce revisits his sweet, fragile sister Fan, mother of nephew Fred whose Christmas invitation earlier that day Scrooge has dismissed with, "Bah, humbug!", his early love for Belle, lost through his lust for money, offer a path for Scrooge to seek redemption, leaving less room for cynics to mutter, "Well, of course, faced with *that* Future he'd shape up for the nominal price of a fat turkey and a few extra shillings to Cratchit!" Here, you *do* believe Scrooge wholeheartedly embraces his kin and will hereafter dote on Tiny Tim.

Want and Ignorance remain abroad in the land, but force and threats will not erase them. Each individual must break free from their own inner want and ignorance before they can reach out an empathetic hand to others. The lure of the Cratchits' family table, nephew Fred's cheerful insistence on toasting his Uncle Scrooge, the Christmas celebration of the sailors at sea amidst the raging storm, must equal–nay, outweigh–the vision of Scrooge's future, unvisited tomb for *Carol's* finale to bring home its lesson. And they do. Triumphantly.

At the Guthrie Theatre through December 31. ∎

Come as you are.

Enrich your life at the University Club of St. Paul. Eat, drink, connect, learn, work, work out, and play in the most beloved social and recreational club in the Twin Cities. The University Club of St. Paul is a gem perched on Summit Hill, waiting for you to make new friends and lifelong memories. Accessible elegance, no stuffiness. We can't wait to welcome you here.

Make Every Moment Count.
Schedule a Tour Today.

University Club

420 Summit Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55102
651.222.1751 | universityclubofstpaul.com

Blondette
Bistro Blessing

BY CARLA WALDEMAR

Top: Poached Lobster. Bottom: The Rand Tower Martini. Opposite Page: Beef Tartare. Photos by Mike Hnida

Blondette, je t'adore!

Yes, I've fallen head over heels for the new restaurant, anchoring the fifth floor of the Rand Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. At (way-too) long last, the city once again hosts a kitchen devoted to French bistro classics, and it comes our way from that restaurateur who never sleeps, Daniel del Prado (Martina, Colita, Josefina, Cardamom, Sanjusan, etc.).

The dreamy setting, under a transparent domed ceiling, is couched in cozy shadows, backlit in soft lavender. Tables, banquettes and bar stools aside the open kitchen welcome lovers of bistro classics, which del Prado has edited for today's palates—a list of 21 delectable edibles ranging from small-plate snacks (oysters, shrimp or tuna crudo, etc.) to mini-entrees like lobster, scallops and a full-on cote de boeuf for two, $95. (Not to worry: Many of the shareable plates ring in under $20.)

We began our meander through the menu with the Lyonnaise salad—the French bistro classic, here interpreted with frisee as the greens of choice, rinsed with a perky but not intrusive sherry vinaigrette. The usual lardon batons were miniaturized into a sweet/salty small dice of bacon, while the egg that crowns this creation here has achieved the jammy-yolk stage rather than acting as a spurt of golden goodness to dress the plate when punctured by a fork. (Moi, I love the chance to blend the rich, flowing egg yolk into the greens, but Blondette's more

sober take come off just fine, too.)

Next, we summoned an item seldom seen, these days, on a Minnesota menu—sweetbreads. Those appendages of veal—chewy bits, sort of like cooked shrimp in texture—mingle with earthy mushrooms moistened by madeira jus upon a bed of pommes puree (OK, plain ol' mashed potatoes, and delicious ones): rich, rich, rich. Off to a good start!

Escargot next (I remind you, it's back to the classics here)—chewy, deeply-flavored morsels accompanied by whole cloves of garlic and paired with, of all things, bone marrow—and not the usual slender rib to delve, but apparently the rib of a brontosaurus. A deeply rich Bordelaise sauce enrobes and tempers what otherwise might be an embarrassment of riches, further leavened by an herb salad and served with hearty toasts upon which to slather the ivory marrow's largesse.

That's three rich courses so far, so why not make it four? Especially when we spied lobster ($29) on the list. The sweet, perfectly timed tail flesh could come out on a saltine cracker and I'd be happy. But, making us happier still, it's served bathed lightly in Sauce Americaine (onions, tomatoes, white wine, butter, fish stock and whatnot), presented with bits of artichoke and mildly simmering fresno chilies.

Because the restaurant had been open only a few days, desserts at this point came from another of del Prado's kitchens—in this case, a tasty fig tart. With so many edible reasons to return— from the jalapeno-sparked charred leeks recommended by our excellent server to duck a l'orange; from a country terrine to a chicken roulade with choucroute bread pudding—I'm considering taking a permanent room in the hotel.

(But wait! Lovable restaurateur Vincent Francoual is returning to the French dining scene with his new bistro, Chloe, in an Eastside hotel. Are we doubly blessed, or what?) ▮

Blondette
Rand Tower Hotel
527 S. Marquette
612-224-3750
www.blondettempls.com

SCREW UP ROYALLY ?!?

ARRESTED? DWI? SERIOUS INJURY?
PROFESSIONAL LICENSE AT RISK?

YOU NEED TO CALL
THE DUCHESS OF JUSTICE!

KRISTEN K. NAROS
~ FIERCE ~ RELENTLESS ~ VICTORIOUS ~

(612) 746-6160
AVAILABLE 24/7

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE • TOP 1% NATIONALLY
BEST IN AMERICA • STATEWIDE SUCCESS

NAROS LAW
COMPASSION FOR YOU
PASSION FOR JUSTICE™

PARK PLACE EAST
5775 WAYZATA BOULEVARD
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
NAROSLAW.COM

Don't Let The Snow Slow Your Roll

BY LINDA RAINES

Winter in Minnesota can seem interminably long, especially if you stay cooped up in your house from early November to mid-April. While hibernation might work out well for actual bears, it's often not the best course of action for humans. Social interaction, along with just being in the good ol' outdoors, with family and friends is healthy—both mentally and physically—not to mention fun.

The Twin Cities metro, as well as greater Minnesota, is replete with fun, interesting, and exciting activities throughout the winter months.

Let's take a look at a few of the many offerings on hand that'll help keep the winter doldrums at bay until spring arrives in all of its rich green glory once more.

Photo courtesy of BigStock/ nd3000

DECEMBER

Holidazzle 2022
Through Dec 18 • Peavey Plaza & Loring Park, Downtown Mpls
The beloved downtown Minneapolis tradition continues to brighten faces and bring joy to all ages with a variety of entertainment, shopping, food, beverages, and crafts. Visit our website for dates and more details!
www.holidazzle.com

Circus Juventas's 3rd Annual Holiday Show – Solstice
Weekends through Dec 18 • Under the Big Top in St. Paul
A Nordic-inspired adventure filled with flipping, tumbling and soaring through the seasons will have you cheering for winter! Perfect for a family outing, Solstice will delight folks of all ages with both artistry and amazing physical feats. Circus Juventas is, and always has been, proud to be a safe and supportive space for LGBTQ+ youth.
www.circusjuventas.showare.com

Minnesota Freedom Band and Freedom Jazz! Holiday Concert
Dec 18 • 5 PM • Mall of America, Bloomington
Join us for an evening of festive music at the Mall of America Rotunda. Admission is free!
www.mnfreedomband.org

Bentleyville Tour of Lights
Through Dec 26 • Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth
The largest free walk through lighting display in America has something for everyone! Free treats, 4 million+ lights and a 128-foot Christmas tree will delight folks of all ages. Free admission, parking is $10 per vehicle.
www.visitduluth.com • www.bentleyvilleusa.org

Winter Lights 2022
Through Jan 1 • Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska
The Winter Lights display is always a stroll to remember! Tickets are required and go quickly, so check our website to get yours now. Enjoying the fresh, crisp air of a Minnesota winter evening surrounded by thousands of lights is an experience not to be missed. The Arboretum café will be open, and shopping at the gift store and music will be available on certain nights. Don't miss the 25-foot Poinsettia Tree created with over 500 red, white and pink poinsettias.
www.arb.umn.edu/winterlights

The Dayton's Project – Winter Maker's Market
Through Jan 13 • Mon – Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 11 AM – 5 PM through Dec 23, Post holiday hours announced later • First & Second floors of The Dayton's Project, Downtown Mpls
Take a step back into Minnesota's past and check out the 67 vendors showing off their wares with everything from shoes and clothing to artwork to delectable goodies. You'll be able to make a sizeable dent in your holiday gift list!
www.thedaytonsproject.com

GLOW Holiday Festival
Through Jan. 1, 2023 • CHS Field, Lowertown St. Paul, MN
Get ready to experience GLOW Holiday in its new home—CHS Field! Newly expanded exhibits abound, along with over a million glowing lights, Bright Bikes, the sElfie Plaza, Tremendous Tree, Enchanted Forest, the GLOW Spectacular and so much more. Tickets are on sale now!
www.glowholiday.com

Botticelli and Renaissance Florence: Masterworks From the Uffizi
Through Jan. 8 • Minnesota Institute of Art, Minneapolis
Fancy something indoors rather than outside in the cold? MIA is hosting a major exhibit of Renaissance artwork featuring Florentine artist Sandro Botticelli. Don't miss this major exhibition that is rarely seen on loan outside of Italy.
www.new.artsmia.org

Mill City Winter – Farmers Markets
Select Saturdays • Dec – April • Mill City Museum, Minneapolis
Just because the weather's turned chilly, it doesn't mean that you can't enjoy the bounty of local farmers! They'll be heading indoors to sell their wares on select Saturdays from 10 AM – 1 PM inside the Mill City Museum. No dogs, please.
www.millcityfarmersmarket.org

Winter Solstice Celebration
Dec 21 • 5 – 9 PM • American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis
What could be better than marking the shortest day and the longest night than doing so at the ASI? A special festival menu with small plates and warm Swedish mulled wine will be served by FIKA Café, and the Museum Store and Jul Shop will both be open late for attendees' shopping needs.
www.asimn.org

JANUARY

Winter SKOLstice
Jan 6 – Feb 19 • Vikings Lakes, Eagan, MN
Combine winter and the Minnesota Vikings, and you come up with fun for all ages and skill levels when it comes to activities on the ice. Winter SKOLstice is back for its second year! Skating, pond hockey, curling, a warming house and the famous Minnesota Ice Maze all await you. Open Monday – Friday 4 – 10 PM, Saturday – Sunday 10 AM – 10 PM
www.explorevikinglakes.com/winterskolstice

Art Shanty Projects
Jan 21 – Feb 12 • Lake Harriet/Bde Unma
Indulge in a whimsical, weird, uniquely experience that inspires joy in everyone from kids to adults. This yearly interactive art project, inspired by the ice fishing villages so prominent on Minnesota lakes, has an anything goes motto as far as construction and decoration for the 150+ artists who participate. Just don't bring your fishing pole!
www.artshantyprojects.org

World Snow Sculpting Championship
Jan 18 – 22 • Stillwater
"There's NO business like SNOW business!" And, there's no sight quite like that of teams coming together from around the world to compete in the creation of incredible snow sculptures as they vie for prize money and the title of World Champion. Attendees will have the chance to enjoy plenty of activities, ceremonies, social events, and the people's choice award.
www.greaterstillwaterchamber.com/WSSC

18th Annual U.S. Pond Hockey Championships
Jan 19 – 29 • Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis
Hockey is as natural to Minnesota as breathing, so why not layer up and come out to watch players hit the ice as nature intended!
www.uspondhockey.com

Saint Paul Winter Carnival
Jan 26 – Feb 5 • Various St. Paul venues
Come out to enjoy this St. Paul tradition that celebrates all things winter! Watch ice-carving competitions, enjoy free artistic and educational activities, music, dance, food, the medallion hunt, and so much more.
www.wintercarnival.com

Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Classic
Jan 28 – 29 • Spring Lake Park, Mankato, MN
This two-day event is more than just a chance to enjoy hockey as it was meant to be played! Of course it offers opportunities for both youth and adult players to show off their skills, but there are also options for all kinds of family fun such as a sledding hill, a warming house, and 12 separate professional rinks. Entry fees go to help local charities that support fighting childhood leukemia.
www.anthonyford99.com/page/show/846310-minnesota-outdoor-pond-hockey-classic

Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza
January 28 • Hole in the Day Bay, Gull Lake, MN
One of the largest charitable ice fishing contests on earth, the event was founded in 1991 and is held ten miles north of Brainerd.
www.icefishing.org

John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon
Jan 29 – Feb 1 • Duluth to Canadian border and back
The longest sled dog race in the lower 48, the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon sees competitors mushing in an event that covers nearly 400 miles and is a qualifier for the Iditarod race in Alaska. Come out to cheer on these mighty mushers at Northern Minnesota's top winter attraction.
www.beargrease.com • www.visitduluth.com

FEBRUARY

Dog Mushing! Women's Winter Adventure 2023
Feb 2 – 5 • 82 Irish Creek Rd., Hovland, MN
Have you ever had dreams of racing across the winter landscape behind your very own team of sled dogs? Here's your chance! This is a true off-the-grid adventure for those wishing to learn about and participate in a wonderfully unique winter sport.
www.points-unknown.com/women

City of Lakes Loppet Winter Festival
Feb 4 -5 • Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis
Originally designed as a cross-country ski race, the City of Lakes Loppet has become a winter staple that includes the Luminary Loppet, Cross-Country Ski, Skijor, Snowshoe, Fat Tire Bike events and more through Theodore Wirth Park.
www.loppet.org

40th Annual Finlandia Ski Marathon
Feb 18 • Bemidji, MN
Attracting skiers from around the world, the Finlandia cross-country ski event has been held in Bemidji since 1982 and is often called the "The Nordic Festival of the North". The event is open to skiers of all experience levels.
www.visitbemidji.com • www.minnesotafinlandia.com ▮

"Alone Together"

VACAYA Provides Getaways For Unicorns Who Want To Go Solo

BY TERRANCE GRIEP

Photos courtesy of VACAYA

After thirty-three consecutive hours without rest, he can be forgiven for thinking that he's hallucinating: like the strands of a wind-blown cobweb, twinkles seem to billow from below, sticking to his barely-focused eyes which are rimmed with red lightning–

–but no, it's not a mirage, not his childhood home of Little Falls, Minnesota, vandalized by the blurry tints and shades of sleep deprivation…it's Paris, really Paris, the French one. The lights of the City of Lights glimmer and glisten four thousand feet below him, even as the Eiffel Tower looms in front of him. Circling the Iron Lady, he spots his objective, Le Bourget Aerodrome, overrun by 150,000 wild and waving well-wishers. Here, a safe landing will translate in French, English, and every other language to lifelong fame. "Lucky Lindy," they'll call him, if he actually pulls this off, as if luck has anything to do with it.

He pulls back on the throttle, and the Spirit of Saint Louis sighs, tilts. The world's first one-man, trans-Atlantic flight is about to come to a successful and spectacular end…

Nearly ten decades ago, solo travel was difficult. Like really, really difficult—arduous and noteworthy, one might even say, as lived out by the Lake State's own Charles Lindbergh…but well into the 21st Century, solo travel has become less so; so less so that it's turned into a bona fide trend among those who recreate enough to create trends. One deliverer of such recreations and such trends is VACAYA, a large-scale, all-inclusive company that, according to its own website, "charters entire ships and resorts so LGBT+ travelers and their straight ally friends have the freedom to express their individuality, make personal connections, celebrate life, or simply relax…together."

"Solo and single travelers make up about twenty percent of our guests and they certainly add to the fun and excitement of each of VACAYA's vacations," reports VACAYA co-founder Randle Roper. "Most are members of our Solo Travelers Playground on Facebook, which has become a great hub for pre-trip connections with others and also an invaluable resource for finding roommates for VACAYA's various vacation events."

Causes for sojourning alone vary as much as light once it's shone through a prism. As another VACAYA co-founder, Patrick Gunn, observes,

"There are many reasons someone might be traveling with VACAYA alone. It could be as simple as that none of their friends were available to join them, or it could be because they want a room all to themselves so they have a dedicated space to host others."

Whatever the solo traveler's itch, there is a complimentary scratch. Notes Roper, "On each of VACAYA's trips, our solo and single travelers are presented with specifically-targeted activities designed to connect them with other solo and single travelers."

The travel industry was one hit hard by the (still-lingering) COVID-19 pandemic, and some lone adventurers are determined to make up for time lost to global quarantine, a form of location exchange granted the somewhat-unsettling name Revenge Travel. "Obviously people hated being locked down and having their ability to travel cut off," Gunn says. "So now that they can get out there again, they're booking trips at a feverish pitch."

The notion of vengeance, happily, ends once the trip is booked. Roper elaborates: "At VACAYA, we've worked tirelessly to make each of our vacations feel as 'normal' as possible, but that doesn't change the fact that behind the scenes, nothing is normal."

The pandemic has dispatched a revenge of its own, alas. "Hospitality labor shortages and supply line challenges continue to make the world of post-pandemic travel challenging," Gunn admits. "VACAYA guests recognize that disconnect, though, and have shown great appreciation for our team's efforts to at least make it feel more normal."

Another trend among single globe trotters is mitigating the imprint their trottings leave on said globe. "That's always top of mind with our guests and internally with our team," Roper insists, revealing the emerging eco-friendly vacation trend. "That's why VACAYA has made concerted efforts to only partner with companies that are pushing the bounds of what's currently possible in the realm of sustainability."

Turning carbon footprints into carbon tiptoes is work that begins at

home. "For our day-to-day business and for our events, we've also moved to almost-entirely digital platforms, avoiding unnecessary printing–and paper waste–everywhere we can," Gunn proclaims. "In addition, our team's uniforms are made from recycled water bottles that have been taken directly out of our world's oceans. On average for any given VACAYA trip, our uniforms represent over 5,000 water bottles that have been recycled and repurposed."

With all of these trends considered, solo travel might well, as it did with the bleary-eyed son of the North Star State a century ago, lead to multiple friendships that stand the test of time. "No matter whether you travel with VACAYA on your own or with a big group of friends, if you're open to all we lay before you, you're guaranteed to expand your friend circle and build relationships that have the potential to last a lifetime," Roper assures. "Those relationships are absolute gifts to those ready to receive them." ∎

The Best LGBTQ Tourist Destinations in the St. Pete/Clearwater Area

BY GABRIELLE REEDER

Top: Sunset Beach Treasure Island, Photo by Steven P. Widoff; **Bottom:** The Dewey, St. Pete Beach, Photo by Marcus Oania

St. Pete/Clearwater is known for its picturesque sunsets, award-winning beaches, delicacies specific to Florida's western coast and a blossoming network of tourists. Over the past few years, the St. Pete/Clearwater area solidified its stature as a tourist destination with ample options for LGBTQ tourists to explore. Here are some of the top establishments to check out.

Cocktail St. Pete

Cocktail opened just over a year and a half ago on May 7, 2021, on Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. The bar and nightclub introduced St. Pete to a unique chandelier composed of multicolored slinkies and toys. The centerpiece attracts thousands of tourists, and locals, to stop by for a drink or two and share a chat while the resident DJs shuffle the poppiest tunes on the radio.

Each night at Cocktail has a theme. Put your cowboy boots on and boot, scoot and boogie over to Monday Night Hoedown, where you can live out your dreams as a line dancer. If country music isn't the vibe you seek, stop by on Wednesdays for Fresh Start Drag Showcase. Anyone interested in performing can sign up starting at 9:30 p.m. Looking for more acapella-style fun? The Big Gay singalong takes place every Thursday at 7 p.m. A pianist keys popular show tunes and classic songs for Cocktail's patrons to shout and sing along.

The Saint Speakeasy

Located through a secret passageway in Cocktail, this speakeasy presents a religious-themed space, but one appealing to sinners. For admittance into The Saint, patrons must confess their sins to the nun waiting at the door. If you fail to comply, you will not be granted admission into the speakeasy. However, if you follow the rules and choose to confess your sins, you will step into the quite literal red room.

As Cocktail themes its drinks around sexual innuendos and puns,

Continue on page 18

LET'S FIND OUR PLACE IN THE SUN.

Show off your true colors in St. Pete/Clearwater. Home to America's Best Beaches, gayborhoods like the Grand Central District, the super LGBTQ-friendly town of Gulfport and St. Pete Pride, Florida's largest pride festival.
Let's shine—plan a getaway at **FloridasLargestPride.com**

ST.PETE
CLEARWATER
FLORIDA

The Saint takes a religious approach. The bartenders here are not bartenders but rather Resident Mischief Makers in charge of mixing libations for the sinners. Name one of the seven deadly sins and indulge in an accompanying cocktail. Hungry? Gloss over the Small Bite menu, complete with options like Skewers of Sacrament or Unorthodox Olives.

For LGBTQ entertainment, The Saint hosts a burlesque show every Wednesday, Burlesque By the Beautiful Ladies of Femmes and Follies.

Quench Lounge

Marketed as "the sexiest, all-welcoming, Gay/LGBTQ bar in the St. Pete/Clearwater area," this Largo bar hosts many parties, events and drink specials daily. Most events begin after 9 p.m., like Undie Sunday, which features $3 well drinks, pool access and bartenders and patrons clad in skivvies.

Are you a bingo connoisseur? Beginning at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Drag Queen Alexis De La Mer hosts Drag Bingo. Yearning for feisty fun? Get your diva on with Diva Saturdays. Every Saturday at 10:30 p.m. and midnight, Quench hosts diva drag shows.

If you want to test your trivia skills, stop by on Thursdays for Big Gay Trivia. Starting at 8 p.m. Miranda Marie Sugarbaker hosts Big Gay Trivia night with gift cards and discounted drinks for prizes.

Sunset Beach

You're not in Florida without access to lovely beaches, and you're not in St. Pete/Clearwater without a vast selection of gay beaches. Sunset is the official gay beach of the Southeast region, for withstanding historical purposes. Sunset Beach lies on the southernmost point of Treasure Island and many years ago, the beach housed the gay bar, Bedrox, making the beach a must-see for LGBTQ visitors and residents. Although the bar is long gone, the beach continues to attract LGBTQ patrons daily.

Tiki huts and restaurants dot Sunset Beach, so visitors will never run out of scenery or activities. Stop by Sunset Beach to catch a glimpse of a mesmerizing crimson sunset specific to St. Pete/Clearwater, or spend the day in the cool water, looking for shells or other sea creatures.

Pass-a-Grille Beach

Another LGBTQ-friendly beach that sticks out is Pass-a-Grille beach. The neighboring communities surrounding Pass-a-Grille beach have large populations of LGBTQ residents, making this beach a safe space and a great attraction for LGBTQ visitors or locals looking for a less crowded, laid-back beach. To get to Pass-a-Grille beach, you have to drive out of the St. Pete Beach and into the residential beach town, Pass-a-Grille, which makes this beach less popular than other larger ones like Sunset Beach. But, since Pass-a-Grille beach is a drive away from the mainland, fewer tourists find themselves exploring this charming destination.

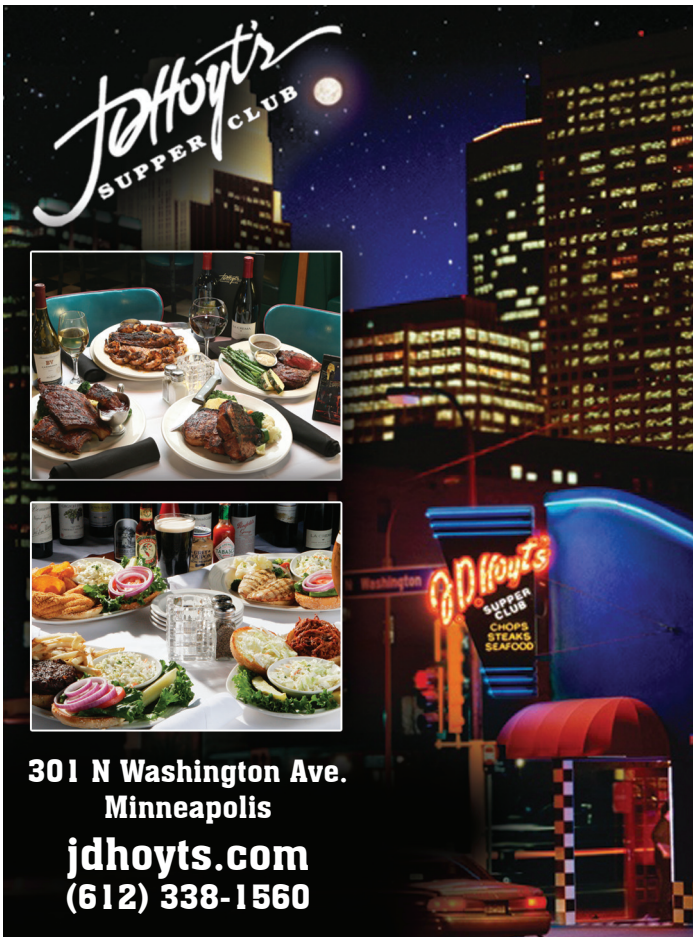
The sand is soft, the water is clear, and the view is fantastic. While strolling down the silky sand of Pass-a-grille beach, you will notice one-of-a-kind houses erected a bit behind the beach entrance and a gargantuan pink building, otherwise known as the famous Don CeSar.

Top: Photo by Marcus Ocnia. **Middle:** LGBTQ Street Mural, St. Petersburg, Photo by Marcus Ocnia. **Bottom:** Clearwater Beach, Photo by Jimmy Fashner

Daddies Donuts and Delites

Debuting a few months after Cocktail's grand opening, the LGBTQ-owned Daddies Donuts launched. Daddies Donuts and Delites started as a vision birthed during the COVID lockdown. The four men in charge of the establishment met weekly during COVID and brainstormed ideas for dessert shops. Flash forward two years, and their donut shop offers the most delectable donuts in the St. Pete/Clearwater Area.

St. Pete/Clearwater is home to several LGBTQ destinations, and while we couldn't list them all, you can visit FloridasLargestPride.com for more information. ∎



ROOSTERS
MEN'S GROOMING CENTER

RESTORE. REVIVE. REFUEL.

SERVICE PROVIDED
- Precision Haircuts
- Color Treatments
- Gift Cards Available

AVEDA
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PURE FLOWER AND PLANT ESSENCES

The West End
1683 West End Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(763) 546-1140

Minnetonka Crossing
6001 Shady Oak Rd. STE 160
Minnetonka, MN 55343
(952) 935-0505

Woodbury City Center
1960 Donegal Dr.
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 348-6676

Online booking click: roostersmgc.com/locations
facebook.com/RoostersMensGroomingCenter

THE CLASSIC AMERICAN BARBERSHOP

★★★★★ 4.5 Rating Google

LES JONES ROOFING

p 952.295.4041

Les Jones Roofing is your #1 roofing solutions company built on trust and quality in Minnesota for over 40 years.

GAF MASTER ELITE® Certified
RESIDENTIAL ROOFING CONTRACTOR

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER

Les Jones Roofing | 941 W 80th St, Bloomington, MN 55420 | 952-295-4041

Keeping It Real With Mike & Jen's Cocoa Mix

BY LINDEN M. BAYLISS

If cozying up by the fire or playing in the snow is more your speed this winter, then a nice cup of all-natural hot cocoa is a necessity. Finding a cocoa packet without a long list of unknown ingredients used to be quite the scavenger hunt, but now, in 2022, you can find one brand that's doing it right all over the Midwest.

I caught up with Duluth's Dean Packingham of Mike & Jen's Cocoa, an LGBTQ-owned business based on just that – making simple yet delicious cocoa without all the unnecessary additives and chemicals used by so many others on the market. This delectable treat is made with just five ingredients: whole milk powder, pure cane sugar, confectioner's sugar, cocoa powder, and sea salt. We talked to Dean back in 2019, but the company has exploded since then, in the best way possible.

In 2019, Mike & Jen's was in about 300 stores and was just starting to get its foot in the door in the Twin Cities. "We had just been this Duluth company that everybody up here seemed to have kinda heard of, but it was frightening going to the Twin Cities," Packingham says of the time. Not that many people down here knew their name, who knew what would happen next.

Well, it seemed to go swimmingly.

Now, Mike & Jen's is in 1,000 stores and counting, and are now in all Minnesota Costco Wholesale locations, which is a huge and exciting development. Packingham says it was a very serendipitous moment when they were discovered by Costco. "One of the assistant managers at a store found us in a coffee shop and loved it and asked us if we would ever consider going into Costco. We were like…'YEAH!'" Getting into Hy-Vee was another big accomplishment of the past few years as well as spreading further east into the Great Lakes region into the Meijer chain of stores.

With success and growth of course comes challenges, and I couldn't help but ask how the pandemic affected the hot cocoa biz. "I remember April of the pandemic and we sold one case of product. Like, one case out of everywhere," Packingham recalls with a nostalgic chuckle. "We were panicked. We were like 'oh my gosh, are we gonna be on the corner selling this stuff?'" But by fall, Packingham says, business was crazy. People were staying in and they wanted cocoa. Corporate gifting companies also began to reach out wanting cocoa for employee appreciation boxes and the like, and this really helped the company thrive.

Dean says this year they have made a whopping 130,000 pounds of cocoa mix, almost double what they produced last year, in part due to all those Costco orders. It was clear that he couldn't believe this number was coming out of his mouth. Thankfully, they aren't bagging anything by hand in the kitchen anymore; Mike & Jen's works with a contract packager these days to get all that goodness in bags and ready to ship.

Of course, Packingham couldn't do it all without his co-owner and best friend, Amanda Cunningham.

Cunningham has been an invaluable part of the success of Mike & Jen's and is the peanut butter to Dean's jelly, or, rather, the marshmallows to his cocoa. It's just the two of them running the whole business, mind you, and they are a dream team. Cunningham fills the role of "numbers person," as Packingham puts it. She loves to organize and forecast and do all the things that boggle his mind. "It's really a great partnership, we've never fought in 20 years of working together all the time." Once he found out she actually *liked* spreadsheets, the rest was history.

So, who are Mike and Jen, you ask? They are Dean's adult children, who inspired him to make the cocoa in the first place. They can be seen once in a while helping out with events (and also on the packaging in cartoon form).

Mike & Jen's' biggest New Year's resolution for 2023 is to further expand their Costco influence. This year they climbed from one to 13 stores and hope to keep that number going up. "There's over 100 stores in the region, so to go from 13 to even, like, 50 of those would be huge," Packingham says.

I asked Packingham if he had any advice for other LGBTQ business owners standing where he once was. "Start incrementally, and start small," he says, and cannot stress enough the importance of cultivating relationships with other businesses. "Everybody wants you to succeed because they succeed from your product as well," he reminds us. Those relationships and connections are what will sustain you and can lead to others.

Packingham also talks about his experience with coming out as an LGBTQ-owned business and offers some warm words of wisdom.

"As a person who came out later in life, I've found that, at first I was a little nervous putting LGBT on stuff. But the more I did it, the more love I got back." He talks about how after coming out as a business he hasn't gotten one single negative comment, despite what he may have thought. It has been only love.

Getting NGLCC certification can be a very helpful resource as well. Be proud of who you are, and spread the word!

"Be proud of it, I think that's one of the things I've learned a lot about. Put it out there, and the love comes back twofold."

Photos courtesy of Dean Packingham

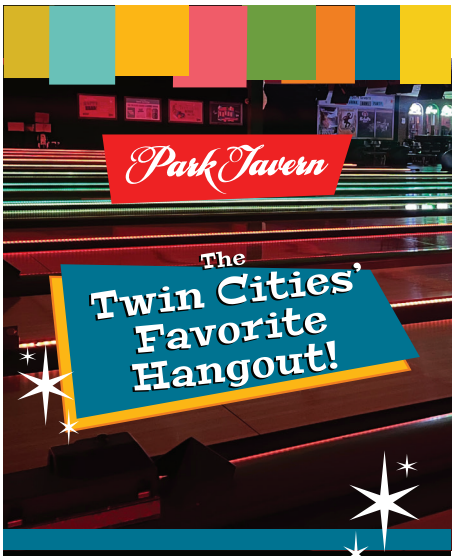
Place an order or check out the "cocoa finder" on their website to support this awesome LGBTQ-owned business and experience the deliciousness for yourself! ∎

Mike & Jen's Hot Cocoa Mix
www.mikeandjens.com

Welcome to Willie's.
Great banquet hall. Great catering. Great views.
Celebrate every last Sunday of the month with a Drag Queen/ King brunch at 10am.
Call for reservations and pricing

Willie's Restaurant and Hidden Harbor
388 W. 9th Ave., St. Paul Park, MN 55071
651-400-0121 • Willieshiddenharbor.com

POCKET SQUARE
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED MICRODISTILLERY
Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday
SEE OUR EVENTS + DRINK SPECIALS!
@PocketSquareLounge
@pocketsquarecocktails
7530 42nd Ave N. • New Hope • pocketsquarecocktails.com



THE RIGHT SIZED SPACE FOR ANY SIZED PARTY!
CORPORATE EVENTS • BIRTHDAYS
REUNIONS • FAMILY GET TOGETHERS
BACHELORETTE / BACHELOR PARTY • REHEARSAL DINNERS
SEE YOU SOON!
952-929-6810 WWW.PARKTAVERN.NET

MIDTOWN GLOBAL MARKET
Warm up this Holiday Season!
GLOBAL SOUP COOK-OFF
Saturday, Dec. 17 | Beginning at Noon

Proceeds Benefit: openarms
Shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts.
Jewelry, art, leather goods, clothing, foods, services, and gift certificates!

Our very own Market cookbook has recipes from around the world, and is perfect for holiday gift-giving.
Scan to purchase online.
MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG
920 E. Lake Street | Mpls
One hour FREE ramp parking. Ask any store for parking validation.
Become a member of Friends of Global Market to support FREE Live Music, Cultural Celebrations + Community Events. FriendsOfGlobalMarket.org

CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
FAMILY/DIVORCE/CUSTODY
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS/DISSOLUTION
PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS
SPERM/EGG DONOR AGREEMENTS
SURROGACY
GAY MARRIAGE ADVICE
SECOND/STEP PARENT ADOPTION
INJURIES/AUTO ACCIDENTS
PROBATE
WILLS & TRUSTS
BUSINESS LAW
Convenient Downtown Skyway Connected Offices
612.332.5100
Free Initial Consultation
Suite 1600 Medical Arts Building, 825 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402
OVER 25 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE
WWW.CLOUTIER-LAW.COM

Photo courtesy of Jane Ramseyer Miller

Grand Finale

Jane Ramseyer Miller Retires From One Voice Mixed Chorus

BY HOLLY PETERSON

At the close of her January 2023 season, Jane Ramseyer Miller will retire from her 27-year tenure as the Artistic Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus. Ramseyer Miller's legacy as Artistic Director stretches nearly the same length as the lifespan of the choir itself, which was founded in 1988. One Voice has grown under her purview: it is now recognized as one of the largest LGBTA choruses in the nation and it has a reputation for using music to tell a diverse array of powerful stories. Ramseyer Miller's legacy will be remembered fondly at One Voice and, although they will no longer be in lockstep, there are exciting things on the horizon both for her and for One Voice.

One Voice has changed significantly over the years. "Originally I was the only staff person – now we have a staff of four and many contractors and volunteers," Ramseyer Miller says. "One Voice had forty singers at their first concert, and we have 125 today. We had to put a cap on that number because it's important that we have a community in the chorus."

One of the most formative things that Ramseyer Miller did was to connect the mission statement to action for the choir. "It was probably 20 years ago…Our mission is 'building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song'," she says. "I asked the singers: if we were fulfilling this mission, where would we sing? The majority of the singers said 'schools'. This was the early 2000s, so that was a terrifying idea."

Singing in schools might have been terrifying, but it solidified One Voice's mission. Adult choir members "who [couldn't] imagine what it would have been like…to have a gay choir come sing at their schools" now had the opportunity to be that choir for the next generation. Occasionally parents or teachers reacted negatively, but the reception by students has been overwhelmingly positive.

Still today, One Voice stays true to the mission to sing in uncomfortable settings with the understanding that that is where creating change is most important. "Every fall we have a community engagement tour in rural Minnesota," says Ramseyer Miller. "If we're just singing in halls for people who love us we're not fulfilling our mission."

One Voice has shaped Ramseyer Miller as well. "I am definitely a better listener than I used to be," she muses. "I have learned to program in a way that is deeply authentic. …I strive to make sure that [One Voice and its community partners are both] setting goals and engaged with what the final concert looks like."

Ramseyer Miller has increasingly prioritized storytelling in concert over the years. "We integrate the stories of our singers as a link to link themes and songs," Ramseyer Miller explains. "It's a passionate chorus." This emphasis on storytelling has led to collaborations with Eureka Recycling, Kairos Dance, Green Card Voices, The Indigenous People's Task Force and many more.

In 2017, Ramseyer Miller commissioned and premiered "Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream". "Rustin was the Civil Rights activist who organized the 1963 March on Washington," she explains. "He's been erased from history because he was gay. To bring his story to light, I commissioned a multi-movement oratorio of his life." Touring this show was a highlight of Ramseyer Miller's time at One Voice, largely because of its timing. "The 2016 election was frightening for queer people. This was a way to respond with a story that offered incredible power and hope."

Another especially memorable project was the hour-long film called "Remembering Singing Water," which was created in collaboration with local Indigenous artists. The film, which features dance, puppets, music, and more is available on the One Voice website and is a prime example of the kind of collaborative storytelling that Ramseyer Miller learned to prioritize through her time at One Voice. "['Remembering Singing Water' was important because of the] stories that came together," she says, "stories about immigrants, indigenous people, and queer people."

When I ask Ramseyer Miller what she will do after retiring from One Voice, she begins describing her upcoming work with the 2024 Festival put on by GALA Choruses, an organization she has worked with for over a decade. "Part of what I'll do is rest and then work part-time to gear up for that festival."

"How will you rest?" I ask.

"There's an Australian LGBTQ Choral Festival in 2023 where I'll be conducting…"

"That doesn't sound like rest," I laugh.

Ramseyer Miller pauses, grins: "That will be fun! Then I'll read, play pickleball, have a massage, and definitely hike in the north woods."

Ramseyer Miller might be leaving One Voice, but her legacy there will live on through the culture she helped develop and the legacy commission fund that was created in her name. And she will continue to be involved in making music by and for LGBTQ communities.

One Voice is beginning a search for its next Artistic Director. "My hope is that One Voice finds an Artistic Director who is deeply loved, who can continue the focus on social change, and who will take the chorus in brand new directions," says Ramseyer Miller.

There is one last opportunity to see One Voice under Ramseyer Miller's direction. The concert is called "Generation" and Ramseyer Miller describes it as "a farewell concert that honors the energy of LGBTQ youth and elders." There are two performances at South High School in Minneapolis and one at the Ordway Concert Hall in St Paul. Tickets are available on the website, listed below. Don't miss it. ▮

One Voice Mixed Chorus
www.onevoicemn.org

JUST SAY SELA!

SELA ROOFING AND REMODELING
MN License #CR001050

Free Estimates - Call!
612-326-1716
www.selaroofing.com

Ask about our industry leading warranties!

STAR TRIBUNE READERS' CHOICE
MINNESOTA'S Best
2021 GOLD WINNER

As a member of the Better Business Bureau, you can trust Sela to help you protect the investment you've made in your home!

THE BEST CHOICE FOR RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ROOFING

- Siding
- Windows
- Roof Repair
- Gutters
- FREE Hail Damage Assessment
- Storm Damage Restoration Specializing in Insurance Claims

PLATINUM PREFERRED CONTRACTOR

GAF Master Elite

Serving LGBTQ+ and Civilized Straights since 1990

- Individual & business tax preparation
- Estate & trust tax preparation
- Tax planning
- Business accounting services, including payroll

ROR Tax Professionals

4500 Park Glen Rd.,
Ste. 100 • St. Louis Park
612-822-7177
RORTax.com

LOWRY HILL LIQUORS AND LAKESIDE WINE + SPIRITS

'Tis the Season to Save!

Check out our
GIFT CARDS, CORPORATE GIFTS & GIFT BASKETS

Expert recommendations for last-minute gifts and holiday parties!

LOWRY HILL LIQUORS
1922 HENNEPIN AVE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
612.871.2500
LHLWINE.COM

lakeside WINE+SPIRITS
1916 W WAYZATA BLVD
LONG LAKE, MN
952.404.2500
LAKESIDEWINEANDSPIRITS.COM

Renderings courtesy of Living Out

When The Snowbirds Settle

Senior LGBTQ Retirement Development Opens In Palm Springs

BY AURORA SMITH

When the snows fall in the winter, some folks in our local community decide it's time to fly south for the winter. Affectionately known as "snowbirds," these folks are lucky enough to be able to exchange the cold for warmer climates like Florida, Arizona, and the Coachella Valley in California.

And someday — they might decide to roost in these warmer areas permanently.

One such warmer area that's popular for snowbirds is Palm Springs. For LGBTQ folks looking for a supportive community in this locale, we're delighted to introduce you to Living Out.

Why LGBTQ Retirement Housing is Essential

Studies show that up to a third of LGBTQ seniors fear having to "re-closet" themselves due to their living situations as they age. Whether that's because they might have to move in with less understanding relatives, they become separated from their partner, or they feel they need to hide photos that represent the memory of their husband or wife, it's a real and valid fear.

That's where Living Out comes in. This is a senior community in Palm Springs that's intentionally designed to "provide a safe, joyful living environment for LGBTQ seniors to continue to live and love out and proud."

Developer Loren Ostrow understands that saving for retirement is especially important for LGBTQ individuals. Add to that the growing number of Americans heading into retirement thanks to Baby Boomers leading the way, and the need for LGBTQ-friendly housing is clear.

ABOUT THE LIVING OUT

The Indoors

Scheduled to open next year (2023), this elegant resort apartment community will be built on nine acres in central Palm Springs, California. It will comprise 122 apartments in four-unit configurations ranging from a 1 bedroom with 1 ½ baths and a den to a 2 bedroom with 2 ½ baths and a den.

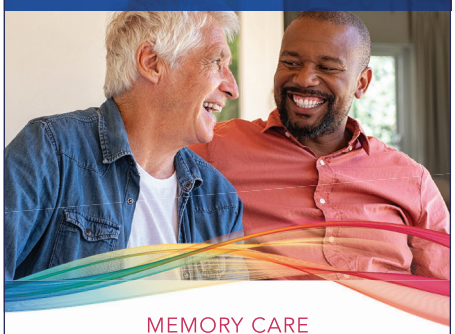
Units will range from approximately 1,100 square feet to 1,700 square feet, with every unit containing a large usable balcony or patio.

The community itself will feature:

- Dramatic landscaping and desert mountain views
- An upscale, full-service restaurant and bar operated by nationally known LGBTQ+ chefs and restaurateurs Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken
- A movie theater with reclining seats

Continue on page 26

Care as Unique as Your Needs



MEMORY CARE
ASSISTED LIVING | LONG-TERM CARE
TRANSITIONAL CARE/REHABILITATION

Call today to schedule a tour!
612.920.2030

JONES-HARRISON
SENIOR LIVING

3700 Cedar Lake Ave., Mpls, MN 55416
jones-harrison.org

RAINBOW HEALTH
Staff proudly trained through Rainbow Health

Stillwater Art Guild Gallery

Open 12-5pm daily!

Enjoy beautiful Fine Art the way it should be enjoyed, in the historic Sawmill Building at the north end of town, 402 N. Main Street Stillwater, MN
651-689-0149 artguildgallery.com

Let our large Abstracts help you make a statement in your home for the Holidays, and for years to come!

Volunteer!
Hennepin County 2023 Advisory Boards

- Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council
- Community Action Partnership
- County Extension Committee (University of Minnesota Extension)
- Human Resources Board
- Library Board
- Mental Commitment Attorney Panel Advisory Board
- Race Equity Advisory Council
- Three Rivers Park District
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board
- Watershed District Boards: Lower Minnesota River and Minnehaha Creek

Application deadline:
Saturday, December 31, 2022
hennepin.us/advisoryboards

Hennepin

MINNESOTA
SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

We Are Aging

Connect with local resources:
Medicare | Financial help | Housing
Legal help | Services

800-333-2433

The Senior LinkAge Line® is a free statewide service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's area agencies on aging.

- A game room and card room, as well as an arts and crafts studio
- A state-of-the-art fitness center
- Massage rooms and a hair salon including manicure and pedicure facilities
- And an innovative community lounge that will include a coffee bar, prepared food options, and a work space

Residents will have a wide variety of entertainment options in this new LGBTQ senior living community.

The Outdoors

If you're a fan of architecture, the architecture of the community will reference the iconic Mid-Century Modern style for which Palm Springs is famous.

The exterior of the property will include:

- Covered surface parking for all residents, as well as guest and retail parking
- An event lawn
- BBQ and entertainment areas
- A resort-style swimming pool and three separate jacuzzi spa areas
- Bocce ball courts
- A putting green
- Orchards, rose gardens, and walking paths

Got a furry friend to bring with you? They're welcome, too! One of the most unique features of the property will be a large pet park, with areas for both large and small dogs. This will be beside a full-service pet facility, including a store, grooming facilities, daycare, and overnight boarding.

Living Out Palm Springs will also provide onsite and virtual concierge services to meet the needs of all its residents.

What if You Want to Live at Home?

No matter how wonderful an LGBTQ community is (and Living Out looks like it will be quite something!), sometimes, you just want to stay in your own home.

If that's the case, in addition to the community in Palm Springs, Living Out will work with LGBTQ organizations to recommend in-home care companies with LGBTQ cultural competency.

Mr. Ostrow, an LGBTQ senior himself, has served on the LGBT Center of Los Angeles for decades and has donated the largest single seven-figure gift in the center's history (amongst his many other philanthropic contributions locally and nationally).

Living Out Palm Springs will be the flagship property for Ostrow's plan to develop Living Out communities around the nation.

LGBTQ Snow Birds and More Are Welcome

So whether you fly south for the cold winter months or are already a balmy area native, be sure to look at Living Out for your LGBTQ retirement needs.

More information on Living Out Palm Springs can be found at living-out.com. ∎

Dogs Love to Play, Stay, and be Pampered Here

Downtown Dogs provides daycare and boarding that pups and their busy parents love.
Dog's Day Out offers DIY and full service bathing and grooming in a snazzy modern space.
Proud member of Quorum.

DOWNTOWN DOGS
daycare + boarding
612.374.DOGS (3647)
dtdogs.com

DOG'S DAY OUT
full/self serve bath + grooming
612.255.3425
dogsdaympls.com

MN Kennel License #MN887499

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
MINNEAPOLIS

Advent & Christmas Services

Worship with us in person or online!

Dec 18 5 p.m.	A Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols
Dec 20 2 p.m.	Longest Night Service (no livestream)
Dec 24 4 & 11 p.m.	Christmas Eve Services
Dec 24 6 p.m.	Misa en Español (no livestream)
Dec 25 10 a.m.	Christmas Day Eucharist

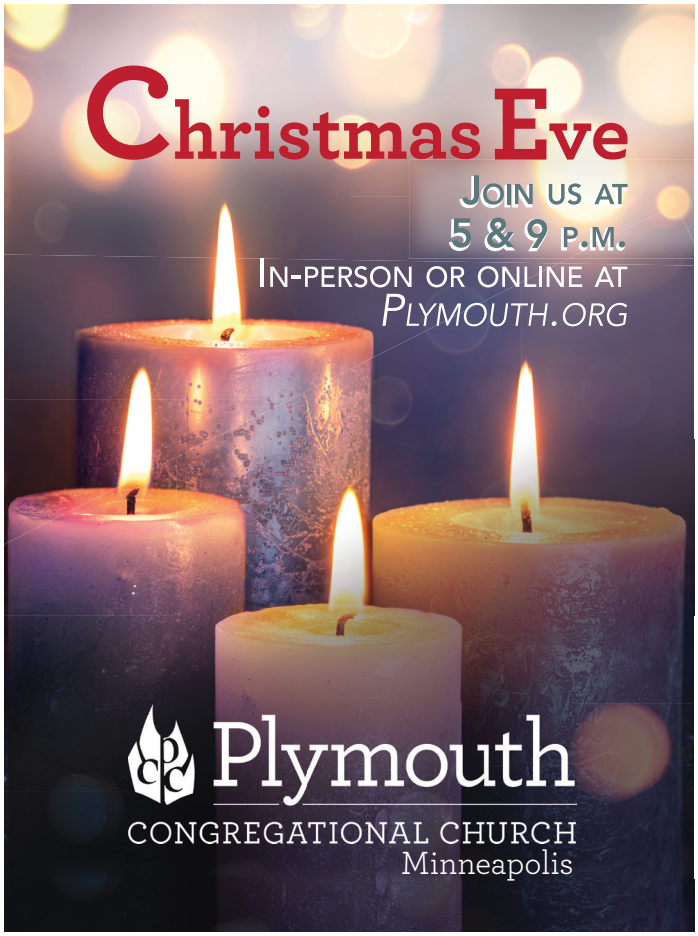
Adjacent to Loring Park at 519 Oak Grove St. in Minneapolis

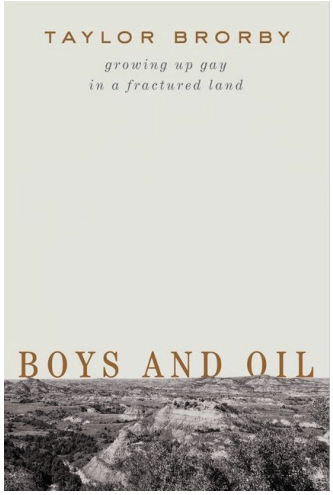
ourcathedral.org | 612-870-7800

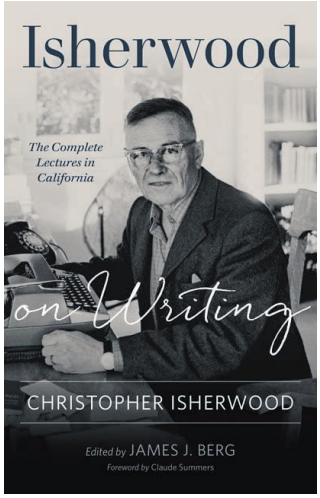
PEACE

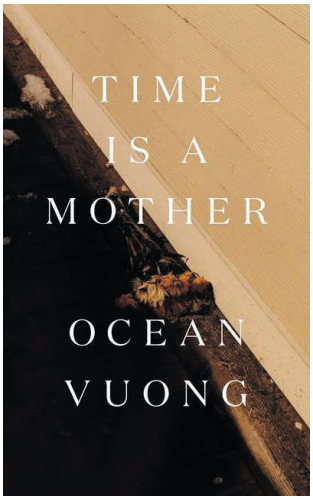
Celebrate Christmas Eve at
Hennepin Avenue UMC
God With Us
Saturday, December 24
4pm, 8pm, 10pm
HENNEPIN AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
haumc.org/christmas

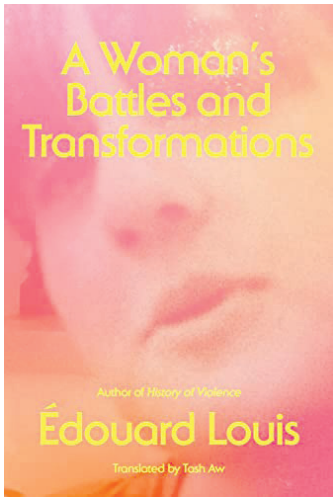
Westminster
Christmas Services
Christmas Festival Sunday | December 18
9 am | Lessons and Carols with
Children's Christmas Pageant
11 am | Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve | December 24
4 pm | Family Service
8 pm & 10 pm | Candlelight Services
Christmas Day | December 25
10:30 am | Sunday Worship
Free parking is available in the Orchestra Hall Ramp
at 11th St. & Marquette Ave and in the Westminster
parking garage at Alice Rainville Place.
ALL SERVICES LIVESTREAMED AT
WESTMINSTERMPLS.ONLINE.CHURCH
Westminster Presbyterian Church
12th & Nicollet Mall
westminstermpls.org


Christmas Eve
Join us at
5 & 9 p.m.
In-person or online at
Plymouth.org
Plymouth
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Minneapolis









BY E.B. BOATNER

Boys and Oil: Growing Up Gay in a Fractured Land

Taylor Brorby
Liveright
$27.95

Being gay in rural North Dakota, asserts author Brorby, "seems akin to a ticking bomb." While a reader's first response might be, "Then leave," one is drawn in to Brorby's deep love for his birthplace and his horror at what is being wreaked upon it through man's greed and the destruction of the land, first through destructive coal mining and now fracking for oil wealth. "Toxic masculinity" is not a throw-away phrase here, but a way of life–a way of life that puts other's lives in danger. Once outed to his parents, they cut off all communication, and that remains so today, despite their son's successes as essayist, poet, and work as Environmental Justice at the Tanner Humanities Center at the University of Utah. A harrowing and heroic read.

Isherwood on Writing: The Complete Lectures in California

Ed. James J. Berg
University of Minnesota Press
$27.95

This updated volume contains all Isherwood's lectures given in California universities in the 1960s, including the lost conclusion to the second, presented here for the first time. Stressing, he speaks of his personal writing, Isherwood for the most part foregoes references to lofty icons as influences, and speaks of the importance of one's journals, and of the importance of mining them own of his own two forms of writing, the "real, constructed contrived novel"–plot, action, conclusion–and a more "literary" work which is a "portrait in depth." This is a mere fragment of the first lecture, which, as do the rest, draws the listener/reader into the writer's orbit in in a most compelling way: you're being shared *with*, not lectured at. Congenial and heartfelt.

Time is a Mother

Ocean Vuong
Penguin Press
$24

Vuong, author of *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, a memoir encompassing his mother's fractured existence, joys and sorrows, now enters the realm of grief following her death. Fragmentation inevitably afflicts those breaching oceans and continents to find new lives, laboring ceaselessly to knit up their tattered seams. Yet great grief does not preclude humor and playfulness. Words dance to Vuong's command, startling those expecting other sounds, other meanings as in "Snow Theory:" "This is the best day ever / I haven't killed a thing since 2006" leading to "In the snow, the dry outlines of my mother / Promise me you won't vanish again, I said / She lay there a while thinking it over" and at the end bursts yet another surprise and explanation.

A Woman's Battles and Transformations

Edward Louis; tr. Tash Aw Farrar,
Straus and Giroux
$20

The playful, happy young woman in the snapshot before him was young, happy, coquettish. His mother–a mother Édouard Louis had never known. "I think I'd forgotten that she had been free before my birth–even joyful? … the humiliation she endured from [my father]… the twenty years of her life deformed and almost destroyed by misery and masculine violence." Louis's confession he himself had been a participating agent, fearing through his child's mind she would discern his secret gayness. Louis was her third child, and then, as though soldering her shackles, she bore twins. "Things could have been otherwise," Louis muses. And then, a phone call: "At last. I've done it!" and things were. This short book travels a long road; for mother *and* son. ▮

MORE 'UM's PER HOUR THAN ANY OTHER STATION.

100.7 FM + 104.5 FM

RADIO K
770AM 100.7&104.5FM
Real College Radio

TURBO TIM'S
Anything Automotive

AUTO REPAIR FOR EVERYONE!

MINNEAPOLIS - NORTHEAST

SAINT PAUL - MIDWAY

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE TURBO TIM'S KITTY CREW!

Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing,organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD.

Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication,self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow.

Please send your cover letter and resume to Stephen Rocheford, President & CEO.
stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

FREE SUBSCRIPTION
YOU PAY ONLY FOR POSTAGE
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/SUBSCRIBE

HEINEN'S

21 1st St NW
Osseo, MN 55369
763-425-2178
heinenmotorsports.com

MEET THE 2023
CRF/F LINEUP

POWERSPORTS.HONDA.COM ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. NEVER RIDE AFTER CONSUMING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. NEVER USE THE STREET AS A RACETRACK, AND PLEASE RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT. OBEY THE LAW AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. FOR RIDER TRAINING INFORMATION OR TO LOCATE A RIDER TRAINING COURSE NEAR YOU, CALL THE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION AT 1-800-446-9227. CRF® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. ©2019 AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Your Next Flagship Sedan

BY RANDY STERN

Photos by Randy Stern

In the automotive business, the flagship is the showcase of the latest engineering, technology, design, and execution. It becomes the barometer for all vehicles in its class and across the industry.

How does a vehicle fulfill its status? Will it fulfill the benchmarks it has set for itself and the automotive marketplace?

Back in 2014, we reviewed the predecessor to the vehicle you are about to read about. The Hyundai Equus was introduced to our market as their flagship. Some may have pointed out that the brand name might not be as prestigious to be considered worthy of its role in the market, especially when compared to other vehicles in its class. However, the point was made – the automobile manufacturers in the Republic of Korea can produce equally luxurious flagship sedans on par – or close to it – with other prestigious brands worldwide.

Eight years later, we're on the third generation of this automobile. No longer does it wear the Hyundai brand. Rather, it is called a Genesis – the luxury brand of the same automotive corporate entity. Hence, we have the 2023 G90 flagship sedan.

Before we received our Verbier White Matte painted example, we went through a ton of reviews from other publications. They were singing the praises of the new G90, equating it with the likes of Mercedes-Benz and Rolls-Royce. The latter may sound like a stretch, but it is something we wanted to explore.

Think about this: A new Rolls-Royce Ghost starts from $442,700. How could a Genesis G90 equal a car that is well over four times its price?

Instead of measuring the G90 against a loftier rival, we should evaluate it on its own merits.

For starters, the G90 takes the best design elements seen across the brand. The "superman" shield wears a cross-mesh design that dominates the front clip. It is flanked by the dual horizontal LED headlamp units that have also become a Genesis signature.

The dual horizontal lighting theme continues along the front fenders onward to the rear end. There is a twist, as the upper horizontal taillights are larger than the ones below. The roofline is what we would call a formal

fastback look. There is a third pane of glass on the C-pillar, giving it a more limousine profile overall.

In our top-of-the-line E-Supercharged model, a set of 21-inch geometric design alloy wheels finish up the look of this flagship sedan. Let's just say this is an absolutely stunning automobile on the outside.

The G90 experience does not stop on the outside. All you have to do is step inside. Click on the key fob for the door handles to pop out. Then, step inside and apply the brake pedal. The driver's door simply closes by itself. To open up the door, there is no button to depress. Even if you did not close any of four doors fully, they will close by themselves.

To offset the Verbier White Matte paint, our tester spoiled us with a Bordeaux Brown interior that is simply a treat for the eye. It just looks bespoke. It also feels that way, too. The perforated Nappa leather is mixed with quilted elements on the seats, added with matching carpets and floor mats.

The seat bolsters can be adjusted according to the drive mode you put

Continue on page 34

At Volkswagen of Inver Grove, we have a large selection of vehicles and a staff that will help you find the one that meets all your needs!

If you're looking for a low-cost maintenance SUV, we've got the perfect one for you—get the 2023 Atlas during our Sign Then Drive Sales Event. Take advantage of this incredible deal with:

- **$0 down payment**
- **$0 security deposit**
- **$0 first month's lease payment**
- **$0 due at signing***

Sign then Drive Event

Our Sign Then Drive Sales event is good through the rest of the year and is a great opportunity for big savings.

Plus, you can't go wrong when you shop with us. You'll receive our Carefree Coverage suite of products and services when you purchase a new Volkswagen. Get 2 years of scheduled manufacturer-recommended maintenance, 3 years of Roadside Assistance that will be available to you 24/7, and 4 years of coverage so you can drive with peace of mind.

Swing by today to get started on discovering the vehicle of your dreams.

**Excludes tax, title, license, options and dealer fees.*

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023 ATLAS

- **Carefree Coverage:** Our Carefree Coverage suite of products and services come standard on all new Volkswagen Vehicles.
- **2 yrs. Service:** Scheduled Carefree Maintenance. 2 years or 20,000 miles (whichever occurs first).
- **3 yrs. Help:** Roadside Assistance. 3 years or 36,000 miles (whichever occurs first).
- **4 yrs. Coverage:** New Vehicle Limited Warranty. 4 years or 50,000 miles (whichever occurs first).

VOLKSWAGEN of INVER GROVE

vwinvergrove.com 651.552.9100
494 & S. Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local LGBTQ-friendly non-profit organizations.
To reserve your listing in Community Connection, email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

MN ADOPT
Finding families and providing information, education, and support to Minnesota Adoptive, Foster and Kinship communities.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste. 104
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 861-7115, (866) 303-6276
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue
Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Quorum
Minnesota's LGBTQ+ and Allied Chamber of Commerce working to build, connect, and strengthen for a diverse business community.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste 112
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

CASINOS

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Nonstop gaming excitement with slots, blackjack, bingo and more plus distinctive bars and restaurants.
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(800) 262-7799
www.mysticlake.com

EDUCATION

Northwestern Health Sciences University
Natural healthcare degrees and certificates in acupuncture/Chinese Medicine, chiropractic, message therapy, and B.S. completion.
2501 W. 84th St.
Bloomington, MN 55431-1599
(952) 885-5409
www.nwhealth.edu

EVENT VENUES

Landmark Center
A classic venue, with a grand cortile and beautiful courtrooms, accommodates celebrations of all sizes.
75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 292-3228
www.landmarkcenter.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Aliveness Project
Community Center for individuals living with HIV/AIDS – on-site meals, food shelf, and supportive services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433)
www.aliveness.org

Family Tree Clinic
We're a sliding fee sexual health clinic and education center, now in Minneapolis.
1919 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55403
(612) 473-0800
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Rainbow Health Minnesota
Rainbow Health provides comprehensive health services for LGBTQ+ people, people living with HIV, and folks from underserved communities.
2700 Territorial Rd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55114
General: (612) 341-2060
MN AIDSLine: (612) 373-2437
www.rainbowhealth.org

Red Door Clinic
Sexual health care for all people. Get confidential tests & treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave., 4th Fl.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 543-5555
reddoor@hennepin.us
www.reddoorclinic.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Radio K
Radio K is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota.
330 21st. Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society
Create your own adventure at MNHS historic sites and museums around Minnesota.
mnhs.org

The Bakken Museum
Exhibits and programs to inspire a passion for innovation through science, technology, and the humanities.
3537 Zenith Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 926-3878
www.thebakken.org

Walker Art Center
Showcasing the fresh, innovative art of today and tomorrow through exhibitions, performances, and film screenings.
725 Vineland Pl.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 375-7600
www.walkerart.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Chanhassen Dinner Theaters
The nation's largest professional dinner theater and Minnesota's own entertainment destination.
501 W. 78th St.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
(952) 934-1525
www.ChanhassenDT.com

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage
Theater with character. Comedies, musicals, & dramas in a professional, intimate setting where all are welcomed.
420 E. Main St.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 422-1838
info@lyricarts.org
www.lyricarts.org

Minnesota Opera
World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty; breathtaking music, stunning costumes & extraordinary sets. Performances at the Ordway Music Theater - 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 333-6669
www.mnopera.org

Minnesota Orchestra
Led by Music Director Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra, one of America's leading symphony orchestras.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 371-5656, (800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Leading performing arts center with two stages presenting Broadway musicals, concerts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 224-4222
info@ordway.orgwww.ordway.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
An award-winning chorus building community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
1430 W. 28th St., Ste. B
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Everyone is welcome at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Community. Bold Outreach.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

Plymouth Congregational Church
Many Hearts, One Song; Many Hands, One Church. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.
1900 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you.
519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church
An open and affirming congregation, welcoming persons of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and identities.
1200 Marquette Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 332-3421
www.westminstermpls.org

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lutheran Social Service of MN
Serving all Minnesotans with person-centered services that promote full and abundant lives.
lssmn.org | 612-642-5990 | 800-582-5260
Adoption & Foster Care | welcome@chlss.org
Behavioral Health | 612-879-5320
Host Homes | hosthomes@lssmn.org
Supported Decision-Making | 888-806-6844
Therapeutic Foster Care | 612-751-9395

YOUTH

Face to Face
Supports youth ages 11-24 with healthcare, mental health services & basic needs services for youth experiencing homelessness.
1165 Arcade St.
St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 772-5555
admin@face2face.org
www.face2face.org

The Bridge for Youth
Emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and resources for youth currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
1111 W. 22nd St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 377-8800 or text (612) 400-7233
www.bridgeforyouth.org

QUEERSPACE collective
Creating space for LGBTQ+ to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves through mentorship.
Minneapolis, MN
info@queerspacecollective.org
queerspacecollective.org

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

Locally Owned & Operated Since 1950
HAGEN'S AUTO BODY
Estimates 7am-4:30pm • All Insurance Accepted
Lifetime Repair Warranty
28th & Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls • 612-872-6671
WWW.HAGENSAUTOBODY.COM

HOME SERVICES

Serving you for over 100 years! SINCE 1914
SODERLIN PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR
612-721-4080
Serving the entire Twin Cities Area
Emergency Service Available
WWW.SODERLIN.COM
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB

MATT'S TREE SERVICE
CABLING, PRUNING, & REMOVALS
LICENSED AND INSURED
Residential & Commercial Services
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming • Chipping • Stump Grinding
Storm Damage • Lot Clearing • Hedge & Shrub Pruning
Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease
and Oak Wilt protection treatments
25+ yrs. Experience
Credit Cards accepted
Office: 612-706-8210

REAL ESTATE

diverse properties. diverse clientele.
MALINDA LAUNERT
612-802-2527 • malindalaunert.com
Serving the community for 25+ years!

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
the NANCY WALKER TEAM
Live Well. Invest Wisely.
nwalker@cbrealty.com
612.827.9537
TheNancyWalkerTeam.com

GUN SHOPS

Bill's Gun Shop & Range
We're in This Together!
Training - Safety - Fun
billsgs.com
Robbinsdale - Circle Pines - Baxter - Hudson - Fargo

Advertise your business in
THE NETWORK
Call 612-436-4698

Make sure your Business, Organization or Event is part of
LAVENDER 2023 PRIDE EDITION
To reserve ad space, call
612-436-4660
or email
info@lavendermagazine.com
Deadline: May 12, 2023
Published: June 1, 2023
Available in print, online, and on the Issuu app.
Lavender is distributed at more than 430 sites, including around all major Pride events.

the G90 in. Sport mode firms up the bolsters for complete support. Eco mode offers the opposite effect. Nonetheless, the seats are a treat unto themselves and will induce a relaxing drive.

The rear seats offer power adjustments for a truly limousine experience. If you operate the power window switches, the shades will also open or close to your command. You also get controls for the audio and the climate on the center armrest.

Don't think this is just a sedan to be driven in. The driver has plenty of controls that are equally bespoke. The rotary dial for the transmission sits next to the controller for the infotainment system. Every button and control are perfectly weighted and logical to operate.

The 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster is customizable with various bits of information. The main screen is beautiful, giving you a horizon with the dial for the speedometer and tachometer on the left. They also house the blind spot monitors that correspond to the turn signal.

The center 12.3-inch infotainment screen houses many functions from audio to navigation to vehicle settings. It also serves as a very clear 360-degree monitor that helps in parking maneuvers. Bang & Olufsen offers a total of 1,700 watts of 3D surround sound through 23 speakers. However, smartphone mirroring is done through a USB-C connection in the center console

storage. You do get wireless charging for your devices, however.

Powering our tester is a 3.5-liter twin-turbocharged V6 engine with an added E-Supercharger. This is an additional source of boosted performance running off of a 48-volt electrical system. All told, this engine puts down 409 horsepower with 405 pound-feet of torque. To round out this driveline, Genesis adds an eight-speed automatic transmission that sends power to all four wheels.

As far as fuel consumption is concerned, we averaged 22.3 MPG in this

G90. Please make sure you fill it up with the required Premium Unleaded fuel.

The driving experience is solid and smooth. You do feel a bit of roll in some instances, but careful driving will let the G90 show you how well it manages all surfaces and conditions. For either a driver or passenger, this sedan is a lovely place to be.

The steering effort is on the soft side. You can still do tight maneuvers, but the feel is very artificial. Then again, you expect an effortless driving experience for a vehicle of its caliber. Braking-wise, it does a good job stopping in normal and panic situations. Pedal feel falls on the "effortless" side.

There are only two choices available on the G90. You can go with a standard twin turbocharged V6 from $88,400. That will reduce your power band and offer you a set of 20-inch wheels. Not much of a downgrade, mind you. Or, you can add the E-Supercharger, starting at $98,700. Our Verbier White Matte example came with a sticker price of $101,295.

Going back to the original question of whether the 2023 Genesis G90 is an equal to a Rolls-Royce – it is not. It's closer to that benchmark than you think. There are some things the Genesis does well, however the advantage the G90 has is that you can feel the car. A Rolls-Royce is supposed to shelter you from the world. The G90 can do that, but it has a pulse to go along with its driving experience.

We will say that it does rival the Mercedes-Benz S-Class. It might offer the advanced safety technology the German flagship has to offer, but the driving experience alone is on par with it.

In all, this points out how Genesis has evolved into a serious competitor in the luxury automobile market. It is producing vehicles that are distinctive, elegant, and competitive in that segment. The 2023 G90 is indeed a barometer of where the brand is going. It is exactly the kind of flagship sedan worth aspiring for. ∎

LAVENDER'S

FIRST THURSDAYS

Buy A Drink. Make A Connection. Have Fun.

Join Lavender and our host partners, Ma'am and Quorum

THURSDAY

January 5, 2023 • 5:30 - 8:00 PM

park tavern

eat ⋆ drink ⋆ bowl ⋆ party

PARK TAVERN
3401 Louisiana Ave. S.
St. Louis Park

PRESENTED BY:

TRULY™ HARD SELTZER

TWIN CITIES LGBTQ+ HAPPY HOUR

COME AS YOU ARE - NO DRESS CODE

Enjoy complimentary light appetizers, drink specials, and a chance to register to win great prizes!
Register for FREE at LavenderMedia.eventbrite.com or just show up.

Lakeville	Plymouth	Roseville	Woodbury	Coon Rapids	Duluth
952.435.3399	763.551.3544	651.633.7042	651.730.0321	763.219.1356	218.723.2302

schneidermans.com